

REMARKS

An excess claim fee payment letter is submitted herewith for five (5) excess independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-34 are presently pending in the application and have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Claims 1-2, 4, 22, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bucossi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,731,134. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 3, 5-21, 23-28, and 30-33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the above amendments, the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 3 has been incorporated into its parent claim 1, making claim 1 allowable, and claim 3 has been canceled. Further, the subject matter of original claim 1 has been added to its allowable dependent claims 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, 25, and 28, making those claims allowable. The remaining claims are dependent from various ones of the now-independent and allowable claims, and so are also allowable. Dependent claim 34 has been added to assure a proper antecedent for terms in claims 14 and 15, and is likewise allowable.

The claims have also been amended to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, and 4-34, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance,


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the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,


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